



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **REP BARNES STATEMENT ON PROPOSED DISMANTLING OF MILWAUKEE'S LOCAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**MADISON** – Wisconsin State Representative Mandela Barnes (D-Milwaukee) released the following statement to the proposed dismantling of Milwaukee's local public schools in the Joint Finance Committee in the dead of night:

"Access to quality public education is a freedom and right that every child deserves, and the ability for our current and future generations to obtain the necessary supports and skills to succeed through public education is the fabric of our democracy. Unfortunately, the vague proposal unveiled today by unaccountable private voucher school apologists appears to continue down the path of utter betrayal of our children and is ripping the fabric of our communities to shreds.

"It appears that this proposal will attempt to turn Milwaukee Public Schools into a failed education experiment that defunds our neighborhood public schools, drives up property taxes, and has done nothing to boost student achievement. This travesty is being railroaded through while Wisconsin Republicans make drastic cuts in public education across the state, increase statewide privatization of our public schools, and eliminate the only educational program in Milwaukee designed to reduce racial segregation in public schools and improve equal opportunity for students of color.

"Instead of recycling failed, politically-driven policies that ignore the unique and complex issues facing Milwaukee children and families, we should be focusing on transformative outcomes for our students and our communities. This is why I have introduced a proven, innovative model, known as the Sustainable Community Schools Act, which will help improve student learning, strengthen families, and develop healthier communities by focusing on parental engagement, community partner collaboration, and wraparound student services."

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